

Milford Board of Education

Minutes for the Regular Business Meeting:

January 12, 2009

Board members present:

David Amendola
David Hourigan, Chair
James Quish
Joanne Rohrig
James Santa Barbara
Pam Staneski
Greta Stanford
David Steinlauf

Board members absent:

Tracy Casey
Cindy Kopazna

Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent
Michael Cummings, Asst. Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Susan Kelleher, Dr. Of Pupil Personnel Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Board chair David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for student and staff recognition.

Dr. Polansky introduced Tony Ramos as the new assistant principal at Foran. Tony currently is a science teacher in the Danbury school system. The board welcomed Tony to Milford.

Dr. Polansky began his recognition by introducing Foran's Honors Music Ensembles named by the Connecticut Music Educators Association. The association provides talented students with the opportunity to perform with others from area schools and work with elite conductors. Students and staff recognized were:

Casey Cronan, Senior
Daniel Valleau, Freshman
Rebecca Giden, Sophomore
Emily Palumbo, Senior
Kate Sylvester, Sophomore
Paul Valleau, Senior

Brandon Hayden, Freshman
John Hanson, Sophomore
Rachel Altieri, Senior
Anna Bailey, Senior
Melissa Kandrach, Junior
Carla Lynch, Senior
Jessica Shearer, Director of Bands

In addition, Casey Cronan was named to the All Eastern Honors Orchestra. Only 10 students from Connecticut were selected to this prestigious group.

Dr. Polansky then shifted his attention to the Unified Sports program. The program, which has only been in place for three years, promotes partnership with special education

athletes and peer partners. The program builds team spirit, friendship, socialization and positive social interaction. Mr. Swan and Mr. Daniels have been involved with the program since it began. The team travels to a variety of high schools and participates in SCC and CIAA tournaments. Student and Staff recognized were:

Pat Daniels, Special Education teacher
Bob Swan, Assistant Principal
Josh Lukaszewski, Representative/Athlete
Katie Roach, Representative/Athlete
Corrine Benoit, Representative/Athlete
Shawn Reilly, Representative/Athlete

Dr. Polansky then recognized Mr. Mark Robinson (absent) for being named the “2008 Liberty Mutual Responsible Coaching Award.” This honor is given to coaches who emphasize sportsmanship and character building in their approach to mentoring children. Mark is one of 44 winners out of 1,100 nominated. Mr. Robinson was also named as the 2007 Coach of the Year!

The last recognition of the night was given to Ms. Kathy Scarinzi. Ms. Scarinzi, RN, BS, NCSN has been awarded the 2009 Connecticut School Nurse of the Year by the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut. Ms. Scarinzi is currently the primary school nurse at Foran High School. She is the co-founder and current co-advisor for the Foran Gay-Straight Alliance, a member of the student assistance team, while providing health education programs for students during the school year.

Ms. Scarinzi is the President of the Milford School Nurses Union and corresponding secretary of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut. She played a key role advocating to the Connecticut State legislature on the Evolving of the School Nurses in Connecticut, which led to the formation of a task force to examine this issue.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 Special Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Mrs. Staneski made a change to the “no vote” adding the language “due to item e.” With the noted change, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 Regular Business Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2009 Special Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Hourigan asked for Public Comment.

C. Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni told the board the Young Athletes Program began on January 30th at Orange Avenue. She thanked Mr. Cummings for his support.

M. Taylor – 340 Wolf Harbor Road – Mr. Taylor asked why the Youth and Government trip was on the agenda since it was already paid for.

No name – She encourages music in our schools. She would like to see the strings program go beyond the 8th grade. She submitted a petition requesting a strings program in the high schools. She also recognized Ms. Sylvester for doing an outstanding job.

K. Huber – 277 Roses Mill Road – She read a quote that eluded to providing children the tools required. She also recognized Angelique Foley from East Shore as the Geography Bee winner.

Stacy Godek- Mary Ellen Drive – She told the board her son has done very well with the special needs program. She commended the special education team.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hourigan asked if any board member had a report.

Mr. Quish reported the Permanent Schools met. They have received bids for Jonathan Law. With the current economic times, the market has shown to be very competitive. Foran projects will go out to bid in February.

Chairman Hourigan gave recognition to Kathy Bonetti. He then shared the wide scope of responsibilities that fall within her position.

He then read a letter that was received by Ms. Ramos, guidance counselor a law. She gave an update on students who have visited colleges.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports: Student representatives from both high schools were in attendance and presented their activity reports. Copies of these reports are on file with the Board Secretary.

2. Superintendent's Report: No report.

3. Instructional Division: No report.

4. Operational Division Report

a. Personnel Report: Mr. Russell asked if the board had any questions on the personnel report. There were none.

b. Budget Report: Mr. Russell reported 94% of the budget has been encumbered. The state reimbursements for transportation and special education are anticipated soon.

c. 2009-10 Budget: Dr. Polansky shared a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the 2009-10 budget process along with the needs for the increases. See attached. He told the board the budget submitted is the lowest Aldermen approved in many years. Nearly 95% of the budget is contractual or mandated by the state. He told the board the budget would be reviewed in detail during the budget workshops. He encouraged the board to send questions in advance so research could be done and a prepared response would be given at the workshop.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

The consent agenda included three items this month. These were:

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report.
- b. Overnight Field Trip: Administration recommends approval of the following overnight field trip: Joseph A. Foran High School Youth and Government Conference in Hartford, CT, March 6-8, 2009.
- c. Overnight Field Trip: Administration recommends approval of the following overnight field trip: Jonathan Law High School Natural Helpers trip to Camp Hazen, Chester, CT from February 11-12, 2009.

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Mrs. Stanford made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as published. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Unfinished Business
None
- b. New Business
None

IV. BOARD COMMENT:

Chair Hourigan asked the board members for any comments they may have relating to Board business.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hourigan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Greta Stanford
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary